

# Rishworth Urban Sanitary District.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1904.

During the year there have been no epidemics of notifiable Infectious Disease. Only three cases of Infectious Disease have been reported, viz:—two cases of Diphtheria and one case of Scarlet Fever. The case of Scarlet Fever was removed out of the district, as the disease had been contracted outside. All the cases recovered.

The Birth-rate of the district is an exceptionally low one, only 13 births having been registered. This is 12 Births less than last year, and 15 less than the average for the last ten years. The Birth-rate, taken on the population of the last census, in 1901, which was estimated at 915, is thus only 14·25 per thousand, as compared with a rate of 27·25 per thousand last year. It is, however, very probable that the population of the district is less than at the last census. We must also take into consideration the Rishworth Grammar School; so that for the purpose of vital statistics, it is probably, quite correct to estimate the resident population of the district at not more than 800. The Birth-rate on this estimation would be 16·25 per thousand, which is still very much below the general Birth-rate of the country.

The Deaths are the same number and rate as the Births, 13 Deaths estimated on the last census of the population give a rate of 14·25 per thousand. This rate is 2·5 below the average for the ten years. Of this number of Deaths, four were over 65 years of age. There were no deaths under twelve months of age. There were three deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but two of these were in persons over 50 years of age. Two of these deaths occurred in houses where deaths from the same disease have occurred within the last two or three years. Undoubtedly, in some families there is a predisposition to Tuberculosis, but if more stringent measures were adopted to prevent infection spreading from one member of the family to another, many useful lives might be saved.

The Water Supply has been severely tried by the exceptionally dry summer and autumn, and some complaints of shortage of water in houses connected to the main supply were made. It seems probable that the collecting area will have to be increased as the number of users increases.

A row of New Houses has been built on the Main Road and will be shortly ready for occupation.

The Paper Mill at Boothwood has also been considerably extended. I have had occasion to complain of the excessive smoke from this mill chimney, which has been the cause of many complaints from the inhabitants in the locality. The owners promised a cessation of this nuisance when the new boilers could be utilised, but at my last inspection, a few weeks ago, I could not see that there was any improvement. It would be as well if the Council would ascertain from the owners what steps they are taking in regard to this matter.

No New Factories or Workshops have been built. The Regulations of the Act of 1901, which the District Council have control over, are satisfactorily carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. B. MERCER, M.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

